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SBA ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT CHAVARRIA AS LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DISTRICT DIRECTOR

HARLINGEN - U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the appointment of Robert Chavarria as District Director of the Lower Rio Grande Valley District Office. Then SBA Administrator, Hector V. Barreto, made the announcement on June 26, 2006 and commented that, "Robert Chavarria has varied experience in the private sector as well as the Federal Service. He is uniquely qualified to provide the quality of leadership the Lower Rio Grande Valley business community expects from an SBA District Director."

Chavarria worked 15 years for Hewlett Packard Co. as Business Manager for four offices in South Texas. He also has experience as a business course instructor, sales of consumer products and services, and sales of insurance and annuity products for major national insurance companies. In 1988 he joined the Department of Defense working in contracting for electronic and automated test equipment and as a management advisor in Personnel and Manpower Management. He holds a Level II Certification as an Acquisition Professional in Contracting from DOD.

Chavarria joined the U.S. Small Business Administration in 1998 serving as Business Information Center Manager and One Stop Capital Shop Facilitator at the City of St. Petersburg, Florida Business Development Center until February of 2002. He served as Marketing Executive in the West and Central Florida areas until December of 2003. Prior to his appointment as District Director, Chavarria was the SBA's Senior Area Manager for the South Florida District Service Area 3 servicing 9 counties in the Tampa Bay Area.

"I am delighted to have been selected as the Harlingen District Director for the Rio Grande Valley Area. I look forward to working with our District staff, partners, lenders and community organizations to assist the small businesses to succeed in their business endeavors," said Mr. Chavarria.

Chavarria, a San Antonio native, holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

Fiscal Year 2006 – October 1, 2005 thru July 31, 2006 Harlingen District Top Volume Lenders

1. Business Loan Center LLC	47	\$1,548,000
2. Wells Fargo Bank	27	\$1,015,900
3. Bank of America	20	\$717,000
4. Texas State Bank	16	\$1,843,290
5. American Bank	10	\$779,700
5. JP Morgan Chase	10	\$330,700
6. Capital One FSB	9	\$460,000
7. CIT Small Business Lending	8	\$4,030,000
7. Superior Financial Group	8	\$65,000
8. First Community Bank	7	\$1,264,000
9. Texas Certified Development Co.	6	\$4,526,000
9. ValueBank Texas	6	\$458,600
10. Inter National Bank	5	\$626,400
10. Innovative Bank	5	\$35,000
11. Brownsville Local Development Co	3	\$2,541,000
11. Lower Rio Grande CDC	3	\$1,074,000
11. Alamo Bank	3	\$838,535
11. Capital Certified Development Co	3	\$834,000
11. McAllen National Bank	3	\$726,400
11. International Bank of Commerce	3	\$543,554
11. Lone Star National Bank	3	\$460,000
11. 1 st National Bank of Beeville	3	\$75,000

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 10, 2006
5:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception for
Mr. Robert Chavarria
LRGV District Director.
 Reception to be held at the Harlingen
 Chamber of Commerce Board Room
 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX
 Contact Veronica Padilla at (956) 427-
 8533, x221 for information

August 14 – 16, 2006
2006 South Texas Contracting
Opportunities Conference
 SPI Convention Center
 South Padre Island, TX
<http://www.stxbizzone.com>

August 16, 2006
Disaster Outreach Conference
 SPI Convention Center
 South Padre Island, TX
 8:30 am – 12 Noon

August 16 – 18, 2006
12th Annual Mid-America Lenders
Conference
 Hyatt Regency DFW
 Dallas, Texas
<http://www.ntsbd.org/malc>

August 24, 2006
Disaster Outreach Conference
 Del Mar College
 Center for Economic Development
 Corpus Christi, TX
 8:30 am – 12 Noon